

## PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

**DOMINION.**—The chief topic of discussion during the week was the resolution of Hon. W. Laurier, condemning the government for its unfriendly and unneighborly policy with regard to the B. N. A. fisheries. The leader of the opposition took occasion to deal with several matters of interest with respect to the relations between the United States and Canada. He urged upon the government the adoption of unrestricted reciprocity as being the only policy under which Canadians could prosper. Sir John Macdonald said that Hon. Mr. Laurier had included under the cover of his resolution several distinct subjects. The trade relations between the two countries deserved serious consideration, but it had nothing to do with the fisheries' question. In this question Canada and Great Britain had desired to act in a friendly manner, but the U. S. Senate had shut down upon the treaty, and the Government's only recourse was to protect the interests of our fishermen and carry out in its entirety the treaty of 1818. Messrs. Mills, Foster, Jones, and Kenny also spoke to the question, but it has been so much flaked and shredded in the provincial press that it is now boneless, and if there is a Nova Scotian who wants any additional information on the subject, he must be a dunderhead and no mistake. Dr. Weldon, M. P. for Albert, N. B., has made an excellent hit in introducing some amendments to the Extradition Treaty, which will have the effect of making Canada an undesirable Asylum for defaulting bank cashiers and American boodle-jumpers. If the United States will not do as much for us, so much the worse for the United States.

The government has been waited upon by representatives from the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, urging that the northern limits of those provinces extend to James' Bay, or somewhere thereabouts. So far as we are concerned down by the sea, these provinces may extend their territory to the Arctic Ocean or even to the North Pole. It is the timber limits they are after, and we presume that these can be quite as well managed by the respective provincial governments as by the federal authorities. A much more important question is the delineation of the boundary between Canada and Alaska; there are said to be some excellent gold mines in the vicinity of that boundary, and in consequence the boundary line is being carried this way and that, to suit the national inclinations of the American and Canadian miners who are flocking into the country to search for the precious metal.

Parliament is asked to consider an increase of from two to four dollars duty upon barrelled pork. This in the interest of the Prince Edward Island pork packers.

Again a movement is on foot to consider the advisability of selling out the Intercolonial railway to a private company. We doubt whether the movement has in it a vitalizing spark, but if it has we trust that Nova Scotia will be credited with the proportion paid in by her, and that there will be no attempt to fob this province off with a mileage valuation.

The government has been pretty sharply criticized with respect to its land policy in the Northwest Territories, but the criticisms have been so largely generalizations that it is a little difficult to know in just what the shortcoming consists. However, governments, like individuals, are not infallible, and it is quite possible that somebody may be at fault.

"There's a good time coming," and its almost here, there is to be no more worrying of our friends by handing them letters and asking their opinions as to their being under or over weight. Parliament is going to increase the limit of weight of a three cent letter from one half to one ounce, and if anybody wants to write a heavier epistle, he will have to pay the piper. For our own part we never went above the regulation weight, but we now propose to get up a neat advertisement of THE CRITIC, and put it in all letters whether of private or business correspondence. It will all go for one stamp you know, and that's an item worth considering. There is some talk of increasing the rate for registered letters, this is in order to make the rates the same as those in Great Britain. Very good, but why did they not drop the letter postage to two cents, in order to make the rate like to that in Britain. Hereafter our city correspondence will be done on post-cards, as the respectability of enclosing our communications in envelopes now costs two cents, instead of one cent as formerly. Letters mailed in any particular town for delivery in that town are called drop letters, the parliament must have forgotten this when they dropped the rate of postage from one to two cents per letter.

**PROVINCIAL.**—In the discussion in the House with respect to the publishing of the debates in the press, it transpired that an effort is being made to have the same printed in the French language. The Editor of *L'Evangeline*, a French paper in Digby County, has requested leave to publish an abstract of the debates, and to be paid for the same. If the Government intend paying all the papers that are willing to publish abstracts of the debates, then *L'Evangeline* would be entitled to a share of the printing appropriation, but the fact that it is printed in the French language does not entitle it to any special consideration.

The plucky little English sparrows, whose bills have wrought such destruction among our native birds, are being legislated upon, and a longer and a more insidious bill has been introduced for the purpose of encouraging their destruction.

Tax-payers in Halifax residing in Dartmouth object to the income tax with which they are assessed in that town, and a bill has been introduced to relieve them from this double taxation.

The Legislature has endorsed the action of the Government in paying to Mr. Lewis P. Fairbanks \$1680.00, the sum awarded him by two of the three arbitrators appointed to investigate his claims against the Government. Considering the interests involved, and the animus displayed by the Government officials towards Mr. Fairbanks, the sum awarded appears to be paltry indeed, but so long as the Government of Nova Scotia is free to prevent any action being taken against it without its consent, we may expect from time to time

to have made public the details of wrongs, the injustice of which is a disgrace to the civilization of this supposedly enlightened age. The Liberal Premier would confer a blessing upon this Province if he should by law make it possible for an individual to deal with the Government in the courts of the land, and not leave it to the sweet will of the Government as to whether such action should or should not be taken. Mr. Fairbanks has suffered, as we hope few men will ever have to suffer in this Province, from the impertinent assurance of at least one influential official, and from the tardiness of the Government in granting leave to have his claims submitted to arbitration.

388 persons have during the past year been imprisoned for debt in Nova Scotian gaols, but we wonder how many of the 388 creditors have been able in consequence of this imprisonment to collect that which was due them. Very few, we venture to assert, have had any return saving the satisfaction that some money-bags experience in humiliating and disgracing poor but honest neighbors, and, as the money-bags' influence appears paramount, his cupidity, envy, malice and hatred are encouraged under the cloak of a Nova Scotian law. It may be law, but it is not justice, and the Legislature should grapple with the question like men having some breadth of mind, and not be influenced by the puppets who would wring from the hands of poverty the last drop of its life blood.

The Prepper trial, according to the returns made to the house, cost the province \$1017, but so far as the public are concerned they are just as much in the dark as ever, and nobody can state positively that Prepper was guilty of the murder of Doyle, or that there is any just reason for his being incarcerated for life in the penitentiary at Dorchester.

Mr. McColl, the funny member from Pictou, is nothing if not original. He is always proposing untimely resolutions and expounding ill-considered ideas, and, despite several severe snubbings, he has popped up again, this time to raise his voice against the payment of a salary of \$1250 to the Secretary of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is not quite clear whether Mr. McColl would have the general Secretary work for less pay or for no pay at all, but it is clear that he thinks this Province is too poor to pay the Secretary's salary, and that in his judgment the salary, if any, should be paid by the Dominion Government. Premier Fielding's very crushing answer, to the effect that the Secretary was as much a Provincial Official as those employed in the Departmental Offices, should be taken to heart by Mr. McColl, whose ultra-radicalism bids fair to make him ridiculous in the eyes of Nova Scotians.

Owing to the cruel slaughter of our moose and large game, it is proposed to enact a law for their protection, and if this receives the consent of the Legislature, sportsmen will for three years to come have to restrain their ambition, and devote their attention to smaller game. Bears, foxes and wildcats should now receive attention.

The Towns Incorporation Act which was launched last session is now undergoing repairs, and the poor Dominion Officials, who by law had to pay their taxes and yet were disfranchised, are now to have a vote and express their opinion as to the rigging of the Municipal ship. This is as it should be, and it shows a decided narrowness that it was ever otherwise.

We note that several joint stock companies are obtaining their charters this session, among others the Lunenburg and Halifax Steam Packet Co., Limited. Speaking of chartered companies, we think the present government and more particularly the Attorney-General deserve credit for having placed upon the statute book, that excellent measure styled the Nova Scotia Joint Stock Companies Act. This act offers facilities for the formation of companies at all times during the year, and obviates in many instances the necessity of a special application to the legislature for letters patent.

## COMMERCIAL.

The course of trade during the past week has been even and uneventful. Though there has been no great or decided animation in any quarter, the movement of goods has been fairly active and of a healthy character. The outlook in all lines is viewed with confidence. Striking improvement is not expected, but it is believed that a satisfactory and steady business will be developed as the season advances. Payments have been fairly well met but, as is usual in the first week of a month, money has been a little tight in some quarters.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—W. H. Riley, dry goods and boots and shoes, Halifax, closed out; H. W. Lydiard (estate of) boots and shoes, Kentville, stock etc., advertised for sale by tender.

*Bradstreet's* report of the week's failures:

	Week	Prev.	Weeks corresponding to	Failures for the year to date.
	Mar. 1. week.		March 1—1886	1889 1888 1887 1886
United States...	243	302	205 193 227	2727 2317 2334 2528
Canada.....	67	57	40 18 35	398 362 241 254

**Dry Goods.**—The dry goods trade has been fairly active and the movement in spring goods so far shows an increase in volume over last year. Reports from travellers who are on the road offering fall goods are satisfactory, and the probabilities seem to point to the accomplishment of an amount of business considerably in excess of that of last year. Manufacturers in Canada seem to be able to well hold their recent advances in prices and mill-managers as a rule claim that they have more orders in hand at paying prices than they can keep up with.

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—The pig iron market has been quiet but, in sympathy with the recent advance in price of makers' iron on the other side, it has been very firm. It may be said, however, that no change has occurred in prices or in the feeling of the trade. Reports from travellers in